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Original Article

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND PRODUCTIVE ASSETS' SUSTAINABILITY FOR LIVELIHOOD IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract This study focused on community-driven development infrastructure and productive assets' sustainability for livelihood in rural Fadama communities in Ogun state, Nigeria. Two research questions and e two hypotheses guided the study. Descriptive survey design of the ex-post facto type was adopted, using multi-statge sampling technique to select two hundred participants from rural Fadama communities in the twenty local government areas of Ogun state, Nigeria. Data for the study were collected with a modified Community-driven Infrastructure and Productive Assets' Sustainability for Livelihood Scale, subjected to reliability test using Cronbach Alpha test of internal consistency, which yielded 0.86. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics including frequency counts, percentages and inferential statistics i.e multiple correlation matrix at 0.05 level of significance. Correlation analysis showed that there is a positive significant relationship between community-driven development variables and sustainability; ownership/control (.417), participation (r=.393), capacity-building (r=.292), decision-making (r=.382); and positive significant relationship between livelihood and community-driven development infrastructure (r=.393) and community-driven development productive assets (r=.618). Therefore, the two null hypotheses are rejected. It is concluded that the adoption of community-driven development variables in rural development will guarantee positive project impacts, project sustainability and positive influence on livelihood of beneficiaries. It is recommended that rural development stakeholders should direct more funds towards community-driven development projects.

Keywords: Community-driven, development, infrastructure, productive assets, sustainability, livelihood.

Introduction

Nigeria is endowed with some rural areas along the water systems that are critical to agricultural

production and attainment of livelihood. These vast land called "Fadama" are inhabited, hosting several rural farming communities spreading over 4.9 million hectares of Nigeria (Nwabunu, Udah and Ijioma, 2015). However, studies have shown that the existence of human population in these rural Fadama communities are under threat because they have not really benefited from previous socio-econmic infrastructure developmental projects. This makes them part of the majority that still live below poverty line ranging from $1.25 -$1.90 per day from 2004 to 2020 (Bature, Sanni and Adebayo, 2013; Adeniyi, 2015; World Bank, 2020). This lack of socio-economic infrastructure has been existing for a long time, and in order to correct this aberration, the community-driven development infrastructure and productive assets provision was activated under the National Fadama Development Project II and III. By emphasising on the need to sustain investment on rural development, this project prioritize the crucial avenue to improving productivity and income of beneficiaries. To achieve this, it allocated the highest amount of fund for the provision of rural roads, culverts, drift stock routes, market stalls, cold storage, boreholes, irrigation, cooling sheds, agro-processing plants, grazing reserves, service centres and the like across the identified Fadama communities in the twelve benefiting states of Nigeria which includes Ogun State.

With the intention to make National Fadama II and III projects adopt in-built community-driven development of the bottom-up approach for the communities to be able to organise their local priorities, there are no evidences that the people were allowed to gain control and own these developmental projects. Several studies have been conducted in the past on the impacts and sustainability of community-driven development projects, for instance, Janzen, Magnan, Sharma and Ijeoma (2015) research was on impacts of community-driven development programs on income and asset acquisition in Africa: the case of Nigeria while Wongpit, Phonvisay, Sisengnam and Inthakesone (2021) research focused on assessing the sustainability of community-driven development projects in Lao PDR.

The current evidence that development indicators reflect high poverty rate and poor rural livelihood still persist in rural Fadama communities in Nigeria, shows that it is pertinent to improve on dearth of empirical studies to really ascertain the community-driven development infrastructure and productive assets' sustainability for livelihood in the rural Fadama communities. Therefore, this study is on community-driven development infrastructure and productive assets' sustainability for livelihood in rural Fadama communities in Ogun state, Nigeria.

Purpose of the study

Specifically, this study was designed to:

1. identify the community-driven development variables and productive assets for livelihood in the rural Fadama communities in Ogun state;
2. Determine whether there is any relationship between community-driven development infrastructure and productive assets for livelihood in the rural Fadama communities in Ogun state.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the community-driven development variables and productive assets for livelihood in the rural Fadama communities in Ogun state?
2. Is there any relationship between the community-driven development infrastructure and productive assets for livelihood in rural Fadama communities in Ogun state?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were posed for the study and tested at .05 level of significance:

H_{O1}: there is no significant relationship between community-driven development variables and

project sustainability for livelihood in the rural Fadama communities in Ogun state.

H_{O2}: there is no significant relationship between community-driven development infrastructure and productive assets for livelihood in the rural Fadama communities in Ogun state.

Method

This study is a descriptive survey design of the ex-post facto type. The population of the study encompasses all the inhabitants of the rural Fadama communities in the twenty local government areas of Ogun state, Nigeria. The research used multi-stage sampling procedure to select two (200) hundred participants for the study. First, two Fadama community association that benefited from both community-driven infrastructure and productive assets, were selected from each local government area. Secondly, simple random technique was used to select five (5) participants from each of the two Fadama community association in the twenty (20) local government areas. Data for the study were collected using a modified Community-driven Infrastructure and Productive Assets' Sustainability for Livelihood Scale subjected to reliability test using Cronbach Alpha test of internal consistency, which yielded 0.86. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics including frequency counts, percentages and inferential statistics i.e multiple correlation matrix was used to test the two null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Community driven infrastructure and Productive for livelihood in the rural Fadama communities in Ogun state

	Community infrastructure and Productive Assets	**Frequency**
1	Road	17
2	Culvert	8
3	Market/Open Stall	387
4	Reticulated Borehole	50
5	Deep Well	30
6	Cold room	13
7	Poultry House	33
8	Crusher/Oil Extractor	31
9	Fish Pond/Fishing Tools	1145
10	Cassava Grounder	43
11	Feed Milling Machine	38
12	Piggery	78
	TOTAL	1873

The above Table 1 above shows that twelve types of community infrastructure and productive assets were identified in the rural Fadama communities in Ogun state. The total enumeration indicates that 1873 community infrastructure and productive assets were provided for livelihood in the rural Fadama communities in Ogun state.

Table 2: Correlation Matrix of the relationship between community-driven development variables and project sustainability for livelihood in the rural Fadama communities in Ogun state.

	Sustainability	**Project Ownership/Control**	**Participation**	**Capacity-building**	**Decision-making**

1. Sustainability	1				
2.ProjectOwnership/ Control	.417	1			
2. Participation	.393**	.261	1		
3. Capacity building	.292**	.321	.558**	1	
5. Decision- making	.382**	.252	.661**	.759**	1

**** Significant 0.05 level**

The above Table 2 above shows that there is a positive significant relationship between community-driven development variables and sustainability for livelihood in the rural Fadama communities in Ogun state; ownership/control (.417), participation (r=.393), capacity-building (r=.292) and decision-making (r=.382). Based on this, the null hypothesis is rejected. The result implies that project ownership/control, participation, capacity-building and decision-making had significant effects on project sustainability by the beneficiaries. The positive correlation of ownership/control, participation, capacity-building, decision-making with sustainability indicates that the dependent variable would increase as the independent variables increase. This feat was achieved by allowing the communities to exercise legitimate authority over the processes and outcome of development efforts, participate, getting involved in knowledge building, information sharing, exercising the right of directing the decisions over development efforts and use of resources for the implementation of projects of their choice.

Table 3: Correlation Matrix of the Relationship between community-driven infrastructure and productive assets for livelihood in the rural Fadama communities in Ogun state.

	Livelihood	**Community-driven Infrastructure**	**Community-driven Productive Assets**
1. Livelihood	1		
2. Community-driven Infrastructure	.395**	1	
3. Community-driven Productive Assets	.618**	.573**	1

**** Significant at .05 level**

The above Table 3 shows that there is a positive significant relationship between livelihood and community-driven development infrastructure (r=.393) and community-driven development productive assets (r=.618). Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that community-driven development infrastructure and productive assets had positive influence on livelihood. Hence, the two independent variables improved rural livelihood of participants in the rural Fadama communities. Furthermore, it showed that significant relationship between community-driven development infrastructure and livelihood indicated that community-driven development infrastructure improved livelihood and increased economic empowerment of the beneficiaries. Similarly, the significant relationship between community-driven development and productive assets for livelihood in the rural Fadama communities in Ogun state. Also indicated that community-driven development productive assets improved the beneficiaries' productive activities, income and livelihood.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This research investigated the relationship between community-driven development variables and project sustainability in rural Fadama communities

in Ogun state, Nigeria. This study will contribute to existing literature on the importance of ownership/control, participation, capacity-building and decision-making in achieving project sustainability and positive outcomes; and the proven efficacy of the provision of community-driven development infrastructure and community-driven development productive assets in the attainment of improvement of rural people's livelihood.

The main analysis demonstrated that the independent variables have positive relationship with the dependent variables, wherein, increments in the independent variables produce positive corresponding increment in all the dependent variables of this study. The findings are meaningful and will contribute to the growing literature because it shows that the community-driven development are critical to project sustainability and that provision of community-driven development infrastructure and community-driven development productive assets are crucial inputs to achieve improvement in rural people's livelihood.

Considering a policy perspective, the results suggest that emphasizing community-driven development, community-driven infrastructure and productive assets might the best approach to adopt as a policy instrument for implementation, by community development experts, the government, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in rural development project planning and implementation for sustainability and attaining improvement in rural livelihood.

Scarce fund is the major limitation to this research which restricted the samples of population studied to the inhabitants of rural Fadama communities that benefited from the projects. However, in the nearest future, this study may be up scaled when there is improvement in the availability of fund. It is pertinent to state that with the growing rural population, declining economy, poor livelihood and increasing poverty rate, the variables of the study will continue to receive attention from researchers for a long time to come.

It is recommended that Nigeria government, multi-national corporations in oil and gas and international donor agencies should direct more funds towards adoption and implementation of community-driven based rural infrastructure and productive assets provision for better project sustainability and livelihood outcomes.

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